



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

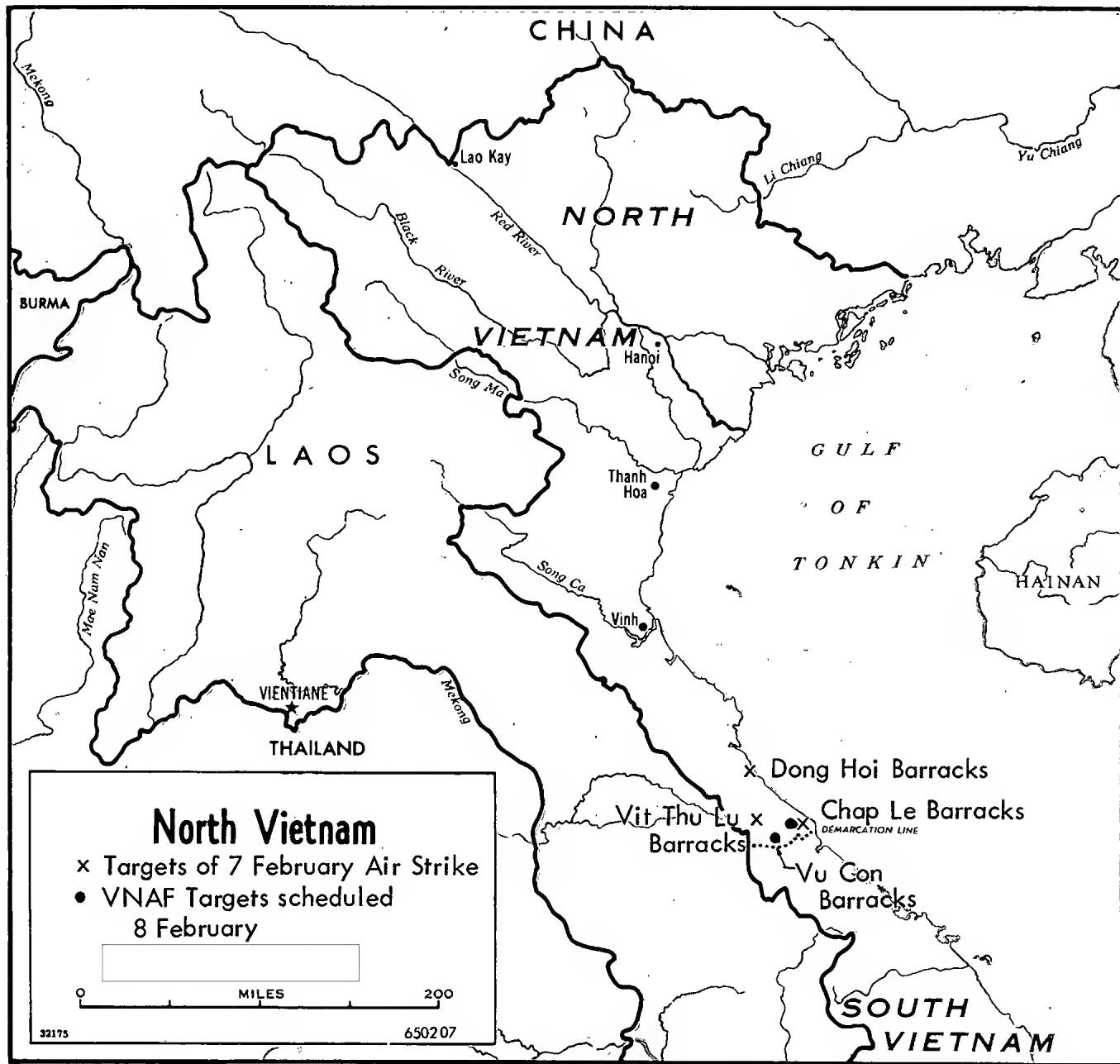
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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SPECIAL ISSUE
8 FEBRUARY 1965

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Vietnam

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Publicly, the Communists have so far responded to the US - South Vietnamese strikes mainly with pro forma propaganda suggesting that they constituted unwarranted aggression. The Soviets were apparently taken by surprise. The Moscow press so far has omitted reporting the text of a speech delivered by Kosygin after the Viet Cong attacks of 7 February, but before the US strikes. According to a North Vietnamese broadcast of Kosygin's remarks, he said the USSR is ready to come to North Vietnam's aid if "the aggressors dare to encroach on her independence and sovereignty." There is no further information available on the later activities in Hanoi of Kosygin and the rest of the large Soviet delegation.

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry vaguely warned after the 7 February strike that attacks will meet "strong opposition from the people of the socialist countries."

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Official Free World reaction is limited. Japan's Prime Minister Sato has said publicly that he regards the US bombing as a "limited reprisal." Thailand's prime minister expressed satisfaction over the strikes. In Western Europe, the initial reaction has been one of some uneasiness. Paris press commentary suggests that the US has somehow fallen into a Communist trap, while in London feelings seem to be mixed.

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